



Town of Arlington
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Board of Health

27 Maple Street
Arlington, MA 02476

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Memo

To: Camp Operators
From: Pat Martin, Lead Health Compliance Officer
Date: April 20, 2022
RE: Camp Permit/ Inspections

The Health Department hopes that all camp operators are staying well and healthy during the last year. While there are no COVID-19 specific guidelines required for recreational camps this season camps may wish to implement preventative measures such as testing. Information on [testing at recreational camps can be found here](#). We would like to remind camp operators that COVID-19 is a reportable communicable disease. Any cases of COVID-19 at camp must be reported in accordance with [105 CMR 430.157](#). All affected campers must follow appropriate [isolation and quarantine guidance](#).

Please return the application, certifications, and \$55 fee as soon as possible. Once all information is received, we will call to schedule a pre-operational inspection. Please allow at least two weeks prior to the date you would like to open to complete this process.

For your convenience you will find the following Mass Department of Public Health documents enclosed:

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health Important Amendments to Regulation 105 CMR 430.000:
Minimum Standards for Recreational Camps for Children
- COVID-19 Health and Safety Standards for Reopening Recreations Camps and Programs
- Recreational Camp Operator Check-List
- Policy Statement Regarding Background Information Checks for Staff and Volunteers at Recreational Camps for Children
- Advisory Guidance on Medication Storage and Administration for Recreational Camps
- Sample Health Care Consultant Acknowledgement of On-Site Medications
- Advisory regarding the Parent/Guardian Authorization to Administer Medication to a Camper
- Required Immunizations for Children Attending Camp and Camp Staff
- “Meningococcal Disease and Camp Attendees: Commonly Asked Questions” ****This document is required to be distributed to all parents or guardians of camp attendees at the time of initial enrollment.**
- Medication Administration Competency Skill Checklist
- DPH Standards for Training Health Care Supervisor in Medication Administration
- Camp Medication Administration Training/Test Checklist
- DPH Standards for Training Health Care Supervisor and Other Employees on Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
- Authorization to Administer Medication to a Camper (completed by parent/guardian)
- Sample Daily Log for Medication Administration (complete for EACH medication)
- Recreational Camp Emergency Plans for Incidents and Natural Disasters
- Guidance for Implementing Regulation 105 CMR 432.000
- Regulation 105 CMR 432.000 - Guidance Checklist
- Important Webpage Links regarding Recreational Camps for Children
- Recreational Camp Injury Report Form

Additional guidelines for recreational camps can be found at the Mass Department of Public Health, www.mass.gov/dph, on the Community Sanitation Program webpage.



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**2021 APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE TO CONDUCT
A RECREATIONAL CAMP FOR CHILDREN**

Name of Camp: _____

Site Address: _____

Site Telephone: _____

Name of Camp Owner: _____

Office Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name of Camp Operator (if different): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name of Health Care Consultant: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of Camp: _____ Day _____ Residential

Hours of Operation: _____

Dates of Operation: _____ Opening _____ Closing:

Swimming Pool: Yes _____ Pool Permit Number _____ No _____

Bathing Beach: Yes _____ No _____

Meals Provided: Yes _____ Food Permit Number _____ No _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Official Title: _____ Date: _____

The following page is a list of documents that must be submitted with this application. All documents must be complete in order to process a permit.

Required Documentation:

Please consult 105 CMR 430.000, MA Regulations for Minimum Standards for Recreational Camps for Children, State Sanitary Code, Chapter IV and all guidance documents, prior to filling out the application. Additionally, contact the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health, Community Sanitation Program for any questions regarding the following documents:

- Staff information forms (e.g. - applications, contact information, health records, certifications, etc.)
- Procedures for the background review of staff and volunteers [105 CMR 430.090]
- A copy of promotional literature [105 CMR 430.190(C)]
- Procedures for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect [105 CMR 430.093]
- A camp health care policy [105 CMR 430.159(B)]
- A discipline policy [105 CMR 430.191]
- A fire evacuation plan – approved by the local fire department [105 CMR 430.210(A)]
- A written statement of compliance from the local fire department [105 CMR 430.215]
- A Disaster/Emergency plan [105 CMR 430.210(B)]
- A lost camper plan [105 CMR 430.210(C)]
- A lost swimmer plan (when applicable) [105 CMR 430.210(C)]
- A traffic control plan [105 CMR 430.210(D)]
- For Day Camps – contingency plans [105 CMR 430.211]
- For Field Trips – A written itinerary, including sources of emergency care, access to health records/medication/first aid kits and contingency plans to be provided to the parents/guardians prior to departure [105 CMR 430.212]
- A current certificate of inspection from the local building inspector [105 CMR 430.451]
- If applying for an initial license after January 1, 2000 – the lab analysis of a private well water supply source (if applicable) [105 CMR 430.300,,303]

Please note:

If you are applying for an original camp license, that is, the original camp license in each community where the camp is located, you must file a plan showing the following with the board of health at least 90 days before your desired opening date (See MGL Ch. 140 s. 32A):

- Buildings, structures, fixtures and facilities
- Proposed source of water supply
- Works for disposal or sewage and waste water

Camp Director

Name: _____

Age: _____

Coursework in camping administration: _____

_____Previous camp administration experience: _____

_____**Health Care Consultant**

Name: _____

Type of Medical License (must be a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant

with pediatric training): _____

MA License Number: _____

Health Supervisor

Name: _____

Age: _____

Type of Medical License, Registration or Training (See 105 CMR 430.159(C)): _____
_____**Health Supervisor**

Name: _____

Age: _____

Type of Medical License, Registration or Training (See 105 CMR 430.159(C)): _____
_____**Designated COVID-19 Safety Officer**

Name: _____

Age: _____

Type of Medical License, Registration or Training _____
_____**Aquatics Director**

Name: _____

Age: _____

Lifeguard Certificate issued by: _____

Expiration date: _____

American Red Cross CPR Certificate: _____

Expiration date: _____

American First Aid Certificate: _____

Expiration date: _____

Previous aquatics supervisory experience: _____

Attach the names, ages, applicable current certifications (if any), such as First Aid, and the anticipated role at the camp of all supervisory staff (see below). Use as many pages as necessary to complete this.

Supervisory staff means those persons with the responsibility, authority and training to provide direct supervision to camper groups. This may include counselors, junior counselors, general activity leaders or other staff who provide supervision to campers.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health *Guidance for Implementing Regulation 105 CMR 432.000*

May 12, 2017

Based on Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) c. 111, §127A½, commonly referred to as “Christian’s Law”, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s (Department) previously issued guidance on Christian’s Law, the Department has promulgated regulation 105 CMR 432.000: “Minimum Requirements for Personal Flotation Devices for Minor Children at Municipal and Recreational Programs and Camps”, effective May 5, 2017. The law and regulations only apply to swimming or diving areas at marine or freshwater beaches and explicitly exclude swimming pools, wading pools, and other artificial bodies of water. In addition, the Department is issuing this guidance document to support compliance with the regulation, to provide associated best practices and to help assist municipal and recreational programs and camps implementing provisions of the regulation.

According to M.G.L. c. 111, §127A½, all municipal and recreational programs and licensed camps must:

- 1) Determine each minor’s swimming ability prior to allowing participation in swimming activities;
- 2) Make available properly sized and snug fitting Type I, II, or III personal flotation devices (PFD) to all minor children who have been determined to be a non-swimmer or at-risk swimmer; and
- 3) Accept a PFD provided by a parent or guardian of a minor for the minor to use while in attendance at the program or camp.

Swim Ability Determination:

Christian’s Law, in part, requires that municipal and recreational programs and licensed camps determine each participating minor’s swimming ability, prior to or at the first swimming session, in order to identify and classify non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers. If municipal and recreational programs and licensed camps determine that all participants are assumed to be non-swimmers, and ensure properly fitting PFDs are available to all minors engaged in swimming activities within areas classified for non-swimmers, then swim tests are not required.

- Based on input from water safety professionals, individuals who do not meet criteria for a Red Cross Level 3 swim rating or a YMCA Minnow shall be classified as a “non-swimmer” and individuals who may or may not have met the criteria for a Red Cross Level 3 swim rating or the YMCA Minnow, but have been determined to have a physical, psychological, medical, or cognitive disability that could negatively impact his or her swimming ability, shall be classified as an “at-risk swimmer”.
- All minors, including program or camp participants, staff, volunteers, and Counselors in Training (CIT), need to be swim tested, at a minimum once per summer, to determine swimming ability.

- In accordance with the regulations, swim tests shall be conducted or overseen by a trained Certified Swim Instructor (CSI) that holds appropriate certifications from a nationally recognized swim instructor program, such as the American Red Cross (ARC) or the YMCA, or an equivalent certificate, as determined by the Department. A lifeguard maintaining current requirements as outlined in the regulations may also conduct swim tests as a Swim Assessor if they have previously observed one and participated in one annual swim test training conducted by a CSI.
- Swim testing needs to be conducted at the same or a comparable location to where the swimming activities will occur unless the municipal and recreational program or licensed camp provides dedicated lifeguards at the marine or freshwater beach where swimming will occur, in which case swim testing may be conducted at a swimming pool prior to the swimming activities.
- Swim tests must be conducted under close supervision and without the use of a PFD. If a parent or guardian provides a PFD for their child, the municipal and recreation program or licensed camp should confirm with the parent or guardian, prior to any swim testing, that this testing will be conducted without the use of the PFD.
- The Department has created the “Swim and Fit Test Model Documentation Form” as an option for the operators to document and track swim testing and PFD fit tests. The form provides for individualized documentation for each minor being swim and fit tested, or who has been provided a PFD from a parent or guardian, and is available on the Department’s website.

Identifying Non-Swimmers and At-Risk Swimmers

Non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers need to be identified whenever they are at a swimming or diving area, in accordance with 105 CMR 432.400(A)(8). Below are several examples of how municipal and recreational programs or licensed camps may choose to accomplish this:

- Providing colored wrist bands that are not easily transferred between each child to identify their swimming ability; or
- Providing non-toxic, waterproof, temporary tattoos with U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) certification for dyes/colorants and compliance with Consumer Product and Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) requirements;
 - Temporary tattoos that are digitally printed (with computer inks) on temporary tattoo transfer paper and Henna-based temporary tattoos should not be used; or
- Any other method including swim markers designed with FDA compliant, toxic-free cosmetic ingredients which allows for an easy identification to differentiate between non-swimmers, at-risk swimmers and other classified swimmers;
 - Alcohol-based skin ink hand stamps should not be used.

The identification process should be clearly outlined and documented in the municipal and recreational program or licensed camp’s policies and procedures.

Confinement to Dedicated Swimming Areas

Christian’s Law requires municipal and recreational programs and licensed camps to ensure all participants, including non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers that are either determined through a swim test or designated as such by the program or camp operator, as well as minors whose parents or guardians have provided a PFD for their child, be confined to swimming areas consistent with the limits of their swimming skills or to swimming

areas requiring lesser skills than those for which they have been classified. All swimming areas shall be permitted and meet the requirements of regulation 105 CMR 445.000: Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches (State Sanitary Code, Chapter VII).

- In order to properly identify confinement areas at the swimming site, the Department suggests that the municipal and recreational program or licensed camp operator create a waterfront site plan for identification and training purposes. This site plan should include all natural and artificial barriers and boundaries of the swimming or diving area, including but not limited to rocks, trees, drop-offs, buoys, ropes, docks, diving board platforms, and slides, which should clearly outline the areas in which specified swimmers, non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers have access. This site plan may be posted at the swimming or diving area, utilized as part of staff orientations, and maintained with other records in accordance with 105 CMR 432.000.
- Additionally, the Department suggests each municipal and recreational program and licensed camp consider implementing a “buddy system” for all minors who are participating in swimming or diving activities.
 - A buddy system is designed to pair or team-up two people, referred to as “buddies”, to stay together and be responsible for keeping track of each other, as well as let someone know if either needs assistance or can’t be located while at the waterfront. The buddies act as a single unit in order to monitor and help each other during swimming or diving activities.
 - Buddies should be teamed up based on similar swimming ability; it is not advisable to team up a swimmer with a non-swimmer or at-risk swimmer.
 - A “buddy check” should be performed approximately every 15 minutes. After a designated signal like blowing a whistle, all swimming or diving should stop and each minor then instructed to go to their established buddy, stand in the water, and hold their buddies hand high in the air while the lifeguard and other counselors ensure everyone is accounted for. Once the count is confirmed swimming or diving may resume.
- The Department recommends contacting marine beach operators to inquire about existing local bylaws, ordinances, or regulations prohibiting the use of PFDs due to water current, and undertow concerns, prior to scheduling any swimming activities.

Ensuring PFDs are Made Available:

Christian’s Law requires that municipal and recreational programs and licensed camps have a system in place to make PFDs available to non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers, and requires programs and camps to accept a PFD from a parent or legal guardian for their child to use when these programs or licensed camps conduct swimming or waterfront activities at fresh or saltwater beaches.

- Operators of municipal and recreational programs and licensed camps may maintain their own inventory of PFDs or have them provided by a beach operator, in which case the program operator must secure a written agreement for the amount and the condition of the PFDs.
- The PFDs should be accessible for staff to distribute to participants at or en-route to the swimming or diving area and only after a determination has been made on swimming ability.
- All PFDs, including those provided by a parent or guardian, need to be U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) certified according to type (I, II, III), size, and buoyancy, in serviceable condition and properly fitted to each individual prior to being used for the first time.
 - A PFD shall not have rips, tears, holes, visible mold or mildew odor, signs of waterlogging, damaged seams, straps or hardware, or any shrinkage or leaks in buoyant material.

- All PFDs maintained on-site during the season should be stored in an area with adequate natural or mechanical ventilation, in order to ensure a proper drying process between use. Once the season is over, the PFDs should be thoroughly dried and then stored in an area where they are maintained dry until the following season.
- The serviceable condition of each PFD must be inspected annually, preferably at the beginning or end of the season prior to off-season storage, however it is recommended that more frequent inspections are conducted with a procedure in place for properly disposing any that are not determined to be in serviceable condition.
- Information on the types of PFDs, size selection, and tips for determining & maintaining a PFD in serviceable condition are available directly from the USCG website at:

http://www.uscboating.org/safety/life_jacket_wear_wearing_your_life_jacket.aspx

[All spaces represent an underscore character “_” in the website address.]

- When a PFD is used by a minor, either when one is provided by a program or camp or when one is dropped off by a parent or legal guardian, trained staff at municipal and recreational programs and licensed camps shall ensure the PFD is properly sized according to manufacturer’s guidelines for height and weight, securely fastened and assessed for a proper fit prior to each swimming activity.
- The Department recommends that all staff be trained for PFD fit testing by reviewing the short guidance video provided by the Department with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Massachusetts Parks/Department of Conservation & Recreations. A link to the video can be found at the website below:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/comm-sanitation/christians-law.html>

- Non-swimmers, at-risk swimmers, and participants whose parents or legal guardians have provided a PFD for their child and are aware of the conditions, do not need to wear a PFD during closely supervised swim tests, swimming lessons, and other closely supervised non-swimming beach waterfront activities, including wading in shallow water where the water depth is less than two feet; however a PFD should be worn for all other swimming activities, and whenever minors are on a dock. “Closely supervised,” non-swimming activities should be supervised by adults at a ratio of one adult for every five minors below age 7 and at a ratio of one to 10 for all minors age 7 and above.
- A PFD should never be worn during any diving activities.
- A participant should not be allowed to swim if a parent or guardian provides a PFD that does not fit properly or is not in serviceable condition and permission should be provided by the parent or guardian before an alternative PFD is issued.
- The Department has also created the “Regulation 105 CMR 432.000 – Guidance Checklist” which is available on the Department’s website, to assist all stakeholders with meeting the overall requirements of the regulations.

Regulation 105 CMR 432.000 - Guidance Checklist

Municipal and Recreational Program or Camp Name:

Address: _____

Operator/Director: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Check if present:

- Policies, procedures and records pursuant to 432.400 are current and readily available.
- Orientation plan for staff and volunteers includes compliance with 105 CMR 432.000.
- Training and certification for Certified Swim Instructors and Swim Assessors, including swim test observation and participation dates.
- Documentation of individuals successfully completing PFD fit test training.
- Current inventory of PFDs for use by designated non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers.
- PFDs readily available and in serviceable condition.
- If applicable, confirmation of third party provision of PFDs (e.g. – copy of contract).
- Storage facility (permanent/mobile) protecting PFDs from the elements and providing adequate ventilation.
- Swim ability determinations conducted for all minors and documented appropriately.
- Site-specific procedures to confine participants to areas consistent with their swimming abilities.
- If applicable, a procedure for managing PFDs provided by a parent or legal guardian.
- If applicable, a procedure for contacting a parent or legal guardian that provides a PFD that does not fit properly or is not in serviceable condition.
- Identification system utilized to verify non-swimmers and at-risk swimmers at swimming venue.